IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s):	Basson et al.
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Group:	2145
Examiner:	Adnan M. Mirza

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Signature: _____ Date: October 17, 2005

Title: Prioritization of Networks for Preferred Groups

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby appeal the final rejection dated June 15, 2005, of claims 1 through 50 of the above-identified patent application.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The present application is assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, as evidenced by an assignment recorded on March 30, 2001 in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 011681, Frame 0156. The assignee, International Business Machines Corporation, is the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 50 are pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-50 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson (United States Patent Publication Number 2001/0025301).

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

There have been no amendments filed subsequent to the final rejection.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention is directed to providing prioritization of networks for preferred groups, which decreases network delays when a person from a preferred group is using networks. (Page 4, lines 1-23.) Generally, the present invention determines if network information is assigned to a preferred group, and configures a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to a preferred group, the higher priority being relative to network information not assigned to one or more preferred groups. (Page 5, line 8, to page 6, line 11.) There are a variety of techniques that can be used to assign higher priority to network information, such as using any of the following exemplary techniques: marking network information as being assigned to a preferred group; preferentially handling, transmitting and receiving network information assigned to a preferred group; determining faster routes for network information assigned to a preferred group; and assigning additional resources to applications that handle network information assigned to a preferred group. (Page 5, line 18, to page 7, line 20.)

STATEMENT OF GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson.

ARGUMENT

Independent Claims 1, 14, 17, 21, 29, 32, 36, 44 and 47

Independent claims 1, 14, 17, 21, 29, 32, 36, 44, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson.

Regarding claims 1, 21, and 36, the Examiner asserts that Anderson teaches a) determining if network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups; and b) configuring a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups

(page 4, paragraph 43), the higher priority being relative to network information not assigned to one or more preferred groups (page 4, paragraph 40).

Appellants note that, although Anderson teaches that a "method should preferably prioritize transmission according to the destination that is receiving the most important, i.e. time critical, information" (page 2, paragraph 14), the method taught by Anderson ***only*** requires that "destinations receiving data *from many sources* will receive *priority*." (Page 4, paragraph 43; emphasis added.) Anderson claims that "this is effective because communication stations 30 that receive traffic from many locations have been shown to be more likely to be receiving more time-critical traffic, or *to have many users*. Communication stations 30 that receive data from only a few sources have been shown to be more likely transferring large amounts of data, for which some delay is acceptable." (Page 18, paragraph 223; emphasis added.) Contrary to Anderson's assertion, the number of sources from which data is received is not indicative of a time critical characteristic of the data, as would be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

In any case, Anderson does not disclose or suggest configuring a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more *preferred groups*. The present disclosure teaches that "preferred groups are those *groups of individuals* that are allowed to prioritize their communications over a network." (Page 4, lines 11-12; emphasis added.) Anderson does not disclose or suggest that preferred groups are *groups of individuals*. Independent claims 1, 21, and 36 require configuring a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups, independent claims 14, 29, and 44 require configuring a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, and independent claims 17, 32, and 47 require determining if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups; marking network information associated with the individual with a priority label; and configuring a network to assign a higher priority, as compared to network information not marked with a priority label, to the marked network information.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest configuring a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups, as required by independent claims 1, 21, and 36, does not disclose or suggest configuring a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, as required by independent claims 14, 29, and 44, and does not disclose or suggest determining if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups; marking network information associated with the individual with a priority label; and configuring a network to assign a higher priority, as compared to network information not marked with a priority label, to the marked network information, as required by independent claims 17, 32, and 47.

Claims 2, 22 and 37

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the step of marking the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups with a label, the label indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of the step of marking the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups with a label, the label indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group in Paragraph 0047 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the step of marking the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups with a label, the label indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group, as required by claims 2, 22 and 37.

Claims 3, 23 and 38

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the step of transmitting the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups before previously received network information is sent, the previously received network information not assigned to one or more of the preferred groups. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of the step of transmitting the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups before previously received network information is sent, the previously received network information not assigned to one or more of the preferred groups in Paragraph 0157 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the step of transmitting the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups before previously received network information is sent, the previously received network information not assigned to one or more of the preferred groups, as required by claims 3, 23, and 38.

Claim 4

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the step of assigning priority of information within a queue, wherein the queue comprises additional network information that does not have the label and that was received before the network information having the label, and wherein the network information having the label is assigned higher priority than the additional network information. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of the step of assigning priority of information within a queue, wherein the queue comprises additional network information that does not have the label and that was received before the network information having the label, and wherein the network information having the label is assigned higher priority than the additional network information in Paragraph 0183 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the step of assigning priority of information within a queue, wherein the queue comprises additional network information that does not have the label and that was received before the network information having the label, and wherein the network information having the label is assigned higher priority than the additional network information, as required by claim 4.

Claim 5

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the step of transmitting, based on the priority, the network information having the label before the additional network information, which does not have the label, is transmitted. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of the step of transmitting, based on the priority, the network information having the label before the additional network information, which does not have the label, is transmitted in Paragraph 0183 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the step of transmitting, based on the priority, the network information having the label before the additional network information, which does not have the label, is transmitted, as required by claim 5.

Claims 7, 24 and 39

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the steps of determining if the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is being routed to or from an application running on a server; and increasing resources of the application when the application is running on a server and when the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is assigned to a preferred group. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of the steps of determining if the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is being routed to or from an application running on a server; and increasing resources of the application when the application is running on a server and when the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is assigned to a preferred group in Paragraphs 0226-0227 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the steps of determining if the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is being routed to or from an application running on a server; and increasing resources of the application when the application is running on a server and when the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is assigned to a preferred group, as required by claims 7, 24, and 39.

Claims 8, 25 and 40

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group in Paragraph 0040 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group, as required by claims 8, 25, and 40.

Claim 9

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses wherein the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group further comprises the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to the preferred group and when the user is using an application for a preferred purpose. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of wherein the

step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group further comprises the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to the preferred group and when the user is using an application for a preferred purpose in Paragraph 0237 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest wherein the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group further comprises the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to the preferred group and when the user is using an application for a preferred purpose, as required by claim 9.

Claims 12, 27 and 42

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the steps of determining, at a firewall, if an application is to be blocked; and blocking network information from or to the application unless the network information is assigned to a preferred group. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of the steps of determining, at a firewall, if an application is to be blocked; and blocking network information from or to the application unless the network information is assigned to a preferred group in Paragraph 0216 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest the steps of determining, at a firewall, if an application is to be blocked; and blocking network information from or to the application unless the network information is assigned to a preferred group, as required by claims 12, 27, and 42.

Claims 13, 28 and 43

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses determining that the network information belongs to a preferred group when the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of determining that the network information belongs to a preferred group when the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data in Paragraph 0108 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest determining that the network information belongs to a preferred group when the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data, as required by claims 13, 28, and 43.

Claim 14

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses configuring a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of configuring a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group in Paragraph 0040 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest configuring a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, as required by claim14.

Claims 16, 31 and 46

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses wherein the step of configuring further comprises marking the network information with a label, which indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group. Appellants could find no disclosure or suggestion of wherein the step of configuring further comprises marking the network information with a label, which indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group in Paragraph 0235 of Anderson.

Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest wherein the step of configuring further comprises marking the network information with a label, which indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, as required by claims 16, 31, and 46.

Claims 19, 34 and 49

The Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses determining, when the individual exists in the database, if the priority privilege indicates that network information associated with the individual is to be prioritized. Appellants could find no

disclosure or suggestion of determining, when the individual exists in the database, if the priority privilege indicates that network information associated with the individual is to be prioritized in Paragraph 0040 of Anderson.

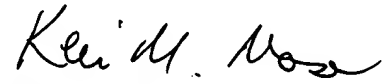
Thus, Anderson does not disclose or suggest determining, when the individual exists in the database, if the priority privilege indicates that network information associated with the individual is to be prioritized, as required by claims 19, 34, and 49.

Conclusion

The rejections of the cited claims under section §102 in view of Anderson are therefore believed to be improper and should be withdrawn. The remaining rejected dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with respect to the independent claims.

The attention of the Examiner and the Appeal Board to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully,



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APPENDIX

1. A method for prioritization of a network for one or more preferred groups, the method comprising the steps of:

a) determining if network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups; and

b) configuring a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups, the higher priority being relative to network information not assigned to one or more preferred groups.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of marking the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups with a label, the label indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group.

3. The method of claim 2:

further comprising the step of receiving the network information;

wherein step (a) further comprises the step of determining that the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups comprises the label; and

wherein step (b) further comprises the step of transmitting the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups before previously received network information is sent, the previously received network information not assigned to one or more of the preferred groups.

4. The method of claim 2:

further comprising the step of receiving the network information;

wherein step (a) further comprises the step of determining that the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups comprises the label; and

wherein step (b) further comprises the step of assigning priority of information within a queue, wherein the queue comprises additional network information that does not have the label and that was received before the network information having

the label, and wherein the network information having the label is assigned higher priority than the additional network information.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of transmitting, based on the priority, the network information having the label before the additional network information, which does not have the label, is transmitted.

6. The method of claim 2:

further comprising the step of receiving the network information;

wherein step (a) further comprises the step of determining that the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups comprises the label; and

wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

determining if there is a fast path over which the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups can be sent; and

transmitting the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups over the fast path when there is a fast path.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

determining if the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is being routed to or from an application running on a server; and

increasing resources of the application when the application is running on a server and when the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is assigned to a preferred group.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:

identifying a user;

determining if a user belongs to a preferred group; and

assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group.

9. The method of claim 8:

wherein step (a) further comprises the step of determining, when the user does belong to a preferred group, if the user is using an application for a preferred purpose; and

wherein the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group further comprises the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to the preferred group and when the user is using an application for a preferred purpose.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of assigning network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group further comprises marking the network information with a label, indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group, when the user belongs to a preferred group.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the preferred groups comprise one or more of people with disabilities and medical professionals.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

determining, at a firewall, if an application is to be blocked; and

blocking network information from or to the application unless the network information is assigned to a preferred group.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:

comparing input biometric data from an individual with stored biometric data in a database;

determining if the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data; and

determining that the network information belongs to a preferred group when the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data.

14. A method for prioritization of networks for preferred groups, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting a prioritization privilege of an individual;

determining, by accessing a database, the prioritization privilege of the individual; and

configuring a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the prioritization privilege comprises one or more of dates of use information, prioritization level information, and purpose information.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of configuring further comprises marking the network information with a label, which indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group.

17. A method for prioritization of a network for one or more preferred groups, the method comprising the steps of:

determining if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups;

marking network information associated with the individual with a priority label; and

configuring a network to assign a higher priority, as compared to network information not marked with a priority label, to the marked network information.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of marking network information associated with the individual with a priority label comprises the step of marking network information produced by an application the individual is using with a priority label.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of determining if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups comprises the steps of:

determining if the individual exists in a database that comprises the one or more preferred groups;

determining a priority privilege of the individual when the individual exists in the database; and

determining, when the individual exists in the database, if the priority privilege indicates that network information associated with the individual is to be prioritized.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of determining if an individual exists in a database that comprises the one or more preferred groups comprises the steps of:

determining if biometric data entered by the individual matches biometric data for a person in the database; and

determining that the person is the individual and that the individual exists in the database when the biometric data entered by the individual matches biometric data for a person in the database.

21. A system for prioritization of a network for one or more preferred groups, the system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the computer-readable code configured to:

a) determine if network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups; and

b) configure a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups, the higher priority being relative to network information not assigned to one or more preferred groups.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (b), to mark the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups with a label, the label indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group.

23. The system of claim 22:

wherein the computer-readable code is further configured to receive the network information;

wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (a), to determine that the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups comprises the label; and

wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (b), to transmit the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups before previously received network information is sent, the previously received network information not assigned to one or more of the preferred groups.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (b), to:

determine if the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is being routed to or from an application running on a server; and

increase resources of the application when the application is running on a server and when the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is assigned to a preferred group.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (a), to:

identify a user;

determine if a user belongs to a preferred group; and

assign network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group.

26. The system of claim 21, wherein the preferred groups comprise one or more of people with disabilities and medical professionals.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (b), to:

determine, at a firewall, if an application is to be blocked; and

block network information from or to the application unless the network information is assigned to a preferred group.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when performing step (a), to:

compare input biometric data from an individual with stored biometric data in a database;

determine if the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data; and

determine that the network information belongs to a preferred group when the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data.

29. A system for prioritization of a network for one or more preferred groups, the system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the computer-readable code configured to:

request a prioritization privilege of an individual;

determine, by accessing a database, the prioritization privilege of the individual; and

configure a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the prioritization privilege comprises one or more of dates of use information, prioritization level information, and purpose information.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when configuring a network, to mark the network information with a label, which indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group.

32. A system for prioritization of a network for one or more preferred groups, the system comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the processor configured to implement the computer-readable code, the computer-readable code configured to:

determine if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups;

mark network information associated with the individual with a priority label; and

configure a network to assign a higher priority, as compared to network information not marked with a priority label, to the marked network information.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when marking network information associated with the individual with a priority label, to mark network information produced by an application the individual is using with a priority label.

34. The system of claim 32, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when determining if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups, to:

determine if the individual exists in a database that comprises the one or more preferred groups;

determine a priority privilege of the individual when the individual exists in the database; and

determine, when the individual exists in the database, if the priority privilege indicates that network information associated with the individual is to be prioritized.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured, when determining if an individual exists in a database that comprises the one or more preferred groups, to:

determine if biometric data entered by the individual matches biometric data for a person in the database; and

determine that the person is the individual and that the individual exists in the database when the biometric data entered by the individual matches biometric data for a person in the database.

36. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium having computer-readable code means embodied thereon, the computer-readable code means comprising:

a) a step to determine if network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups; and

b) a step to configure a network to assign a higher priority to the network information when the network information is assigned to one or more preferred groups, the higher priority being relative to network information not assigned to one or more preferred groups.

37. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (b), a step to mark the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups with a label, the label indicating that the network information is assigned to a preferred group.

38. The article of manufacture of claim 36:

wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises a step to receive the network information;

wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (a), a step to determine that the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups comprises the label; and

wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (b), a step to transmit the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups before previously received network information is sent, the previously received network information not assigned to one or more of the preferred groups.

39. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (b):

a step to determine if the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is being routed to or from an application running on a server; and

a step to increase resources of the application when the application is running on a server and when the network information assigned to one or more of the preferred groups is assigned to a preferred group.

40. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (a):

a step to identify a user;

a step to determine if a user belongs to a preferred group; and

assign network information to a preferred group when the user belongs to a preferred group.

41. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the preferred groups comprise one or more of people with disabilities and medical professionals.

42. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (b):

a step to determine, at a firewall, if an application is to be blocked; and

a step to block network information from or to the application unless the network information is assigned to a preferred group.

43. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when performing step (a):

a step to compare input biometric data from an individual with stored biometric data in a database;

a step to determine if the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data; and

a step to determine that the network information belongs to a preferred group when the input biometric data matches the stored biometric data.

44. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium having computer-readable code means embodied thereon, the computer-readable code means comprising:

a step to request a prioritization privilege of an individual;

determine, by accessing a database, the prioritization privilege of the individual; and

configure a network to assign a higher priority to network information assigned to the individual when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group.

45. The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the prioritization privilege comprises one or more of dates of use information, prioritization level information, and purpose information.

46. The article of manufacture of claim 44, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when configuring, a step to mark the network information

with a label, which indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group, when the prioritization privilege indicates that the network information belongs to a preferred group.

47. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer-readable medium having computer-readable code means embodied thereon, the computer-readable code means comprising:

determine if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups;

mark network information associated with the individual with a priority label; and

configure a network to assign a higher priority, as compared to network information not marked with a priority label, to the marked network information.

48. The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when marking network information associated with the individual with a priority label, a step to mark network information produced by an application the individual is using with a priority label.

49. The article of manufacture of claim 47, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when determining if an individual belongs to one or more preferred groups:

a step to determine if the individual exists in a database that comprises the one or more preferred groups;

a step to determine a priority privilege of the individual when the individual exists in the database; and

a step to determine, when the individual exists in the database, if the priority privilege indicates that network information associated with the individual is to be prioritized.

50. The article of manufacture of claim 49, wherein the computer-readable code means further comprises, when determining if an individual exists in a database that comprises the one or more preferred groups:

a step to determine if biometric data entered by the individual matches biometric data for a person in the database; and

a step to determine that the person is the individual and that the individual exists in the database when the biometric data entered by the individual matches biometric data for a person in the database.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence submitted pursuant to § 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or entered by the Examiner and relied upon by appellant.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no known decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of 37 CFR 41.37.